

Application No.: 10/522,640

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-384

IN THE DRAWINGS

A Replacement Sheet for FIG. 9, which corrects a typographical error ("dram" has been changed to -drama-), is submitted herewith.

REMARKS

In light of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

A replacement sheet for FIG. 9 has been submitted to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.84 and 1.121(d).

Claims 1, 3, 15, 17-20, 22-23 and 25-29 have been amended. Claims 2 and 16 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-15 and 17-29 are pending.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 3 and 17, and to claims 17-20, 22-23 and 25-28, overcome the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lack of antecedent basis.

In addition, it is submitted that, in claims 1, 15 and 29, the wording "sets [or setting] a program at which the operations are started" (emphasis added) provides an antecedent basis for the limitation "the starting program" in such claims. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 15 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lack of antecedent basis should be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, claim 29 has been amended to claim a "computer readable" recording medium. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8, 10, 15-22, 24 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *McCoskey* (U.S. Patent Appn. No. 2003/0028889). In addition, claims 9, 11-14, 23 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *McCoskey* in view of *Young* (U.S. Patent 5,479,266).

The present claims now recite:

setting a program at which the operations are started,
based on a user supplying a control signal for

selecting, as the starting program, program contents being reproduced or watched and listened to by the user or program contents from a predetermined program table accessed by the user;

searching the database for information on programs in all program states to extract programs related to the starting program, wherein the searching uses information identifying the starting program and is in response to the supply of the control signal;

(Claims 15 and 29; claim 1 contains similar limitations).

According to the claimed invention, the starting program is set based on a user "supplying a control signal" (such as by pushing a button on a remote controller) for selecting, as the starting program, program contents being reproduced or watched and listened to by the user (see specification, for example, at paragraphs [0077]-[0078]; FIG. 4) or program contents from a predetermined program table accessed by the user (see specification, for example, at paragraphs [0077]-[0079]; FIG. 4). In addition, the claimed invention requires searching the database to extract programs related to the starting program using "information identifying the starting program," and where the searching "is in response to the supply of the control signal" by the user. (See specification, for example, at paragraphs [0066], [0068] and [0080] and FIG. 4).

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, in *McCoskey* the user enters search criteria, such as "keywords and category headings," into a search request form 618, the criteria in the request form is analyzed and the result of the analysis is then used to perform the search. (see *McCoskey* paragraphs [0044] and [0062]; FIGs. 18A-18C). Nowhere do the cited portions of *McCoskey* appear to disclose setting the starting program "at which the operations are started," based on a control signal supplied by the user, and searching in response to the supply of

the control signal by the user, using information identifying the starting program set based on the supply of the control signal, as required by the present claims.

Further, applicants respectfully assert that Young does not disclose the supply of a control signal by a user for setting a starting program, and searching to extract programs related to the starting program in response to the supply of the control signal and using information identifying the set starting program.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, McCoskey and Young fail to meet all of the limitations of the present invention, and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

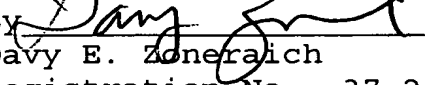
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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